

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A bearing assembly for a piston rod of a piston cylinder unit, said bearing assembly comprising:

a counter-bearing of a component to be carried by the piston rod, said counter-bearing comprising a bearing flange having a top side and a bottom side;

a bearing body mounting for mounting on the piston rod, said bearing body mounting supporting said flange axially on both sides, said bottom side of said bearing flange directly resting on said bearing body mounting;

a slide bearing between said top side and said bearing body mounting;

a slide bearing between said bottom side and said bearing body mounting;

an axially movable backing disk carrying one of said slide bearings; and

a preloaded disk spring braced against one of said counter-bearing and bearing body mounting which axially preloads said slide bearings toward the said bearing body mounting.

2. (currently amended) A The bearing assembly ~~as in~~ of claim 1, wherein said bearing body mounting comprises a sleeve section which defines a minimum distance between said slide bearings.

3. (withdrawn, currently amended) A The bearing assembly ~~as in~~ of claim 1, wherein said spring is arranged axially outside of said slide bearings.

4. (currently amended) A The bearing assembly ~~as in~~ of claim 1, wherein said spring is arranged axially inside of said slide bearings.

5. (currently amended) A The bearing assembly ~~as in~~ of claim 1, wherein said bearing body mounting comprises an upper bearing disk and a lower bearing disk, said slide ~~bearing~~ bearings being arranged axially between said bearing disks.

6. (withdrawn, currently amended) A The bearing assembly ~~as in~~ of claim 5, wherein one of said bearing disks has a threaded sleeve section which engages a thread of the other bearing disk so that the relative axial position of the two bearing disks is adjustable.

7. (currently amended) A The bearing assembly ~~as in~~ of claim 1, further comprising a bearing body received radially inside of said bearing flange for centering said flange radially with respect to said piston rod.

8. (currently amended) A The bearing assembly ~~as in~~ of claim 7, wherein said bearing body is integrally formed with one of said slide bearings.

9. (withdrawn, currently amended) A The bearing assembly ~~as in~~ of claim 1, wherein said counter-bearing comprises an upper shell and a lower shell, which form respective upper and lower sides of said flange, and an elastomer body arranged between said shells, said elastomer body loading said sides axially toward said slide bearings.

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10. (new) The bearing assembly of claim 1, wherein the preloaded disk spring is a single disk spring.